

BILL ANALYSIS**RESOURCES AGENCY**

DEPARTMENT California Coastal Commission	AUTHOR Ducheny	BILL NUMBER AB 64
SPONSORED BY California Coastal Coalition	RELATED BILLS	DATE LAST AMENDED 3/22/99

SUBJECT**Public Beach Restoration**

This bill would establish the California Public Beach Restoration Program, to be administered by the Department of Boating and Waterways, for specified public beach enhancement, restoration, and nourishment purposes. The bill would create a Public Beach Restoration Fund to be funded by a transfer of \$35 million from the General Fund for three years.

The Commission voted to support AB 64 on March 10, 1999.

ANALYSIS

Existing Law: Under existing law, the Department of Boating and Waterways (Department) has powers and duties pertaining to beach erosion control, beach stabilization, and beach repair and restoration. Any projects undertaken by the Department are subject to coastal development permitting requirements.

Changes Proposed by this Bill: This bill would increase the size and scope of the Department of Boating and Waterway's existing beach restoration efforts by establishing the California Public Beach Restoration Program (Program). It would create a statewide beach enhancement, restoration, nourishment, and stabilization program encompassing projects that improve the quality of public beaches used for recreation, improved public access opportunities, and increase shoreline protection. The Department will be responsible for the planning, design, and construction of cost-effective beach nourishment or restoration works.

The Department would also be required, to prepare and submit to the Legislature, no later than January 1, 2002, a report that details the nourishment activities undertaken, and evaluates the need for public beach enhancement projects and the potential effectiveness of the Program in addressing that need.

Discussion: Beach and shoreline erosion can cause the loss of sandy beaches, the loss of beach access and recreational opportunities, and threatens public and private property. Beach erosion has been accelerated by human activities such as instream sand and gravel mining, the interruption of sediment transport processes of rivers and streams by dams and other flood control projects, the placement of permanent structures in or on top of sand, and other modifications to normal sand accretion and erosion cycles. Most of these threats are not from activities that directly effect the beach, but are secondary effects from other activities such as property protection, flood control, energy development, and harbor expansion.

In California, the primary source of natural sand replenishment is from rivers and streams. Upland-supplied sand has reportedly been reduced by an annual average of 1.67 million cubic yards in southern California.

DEPARTMENTS THAT MAY BE AFFECTED**Boating and Waterways**STATE MANDATE ☐GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENT ☐**DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR**

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AGENCY SECRETARY POSITION

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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE USE

Position approved..... ☐
Position disapproved ☐
Position Noted ☐

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

AGENCY SECRETARY

BY

DATE

Studies by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and other entities have determined that approximately 86% (925 miles) of the California coastline is eroding, a problem that extends beyond the governmental boundaries of individual coastal communities. On San Diego County's northern coast, expanses of sand have disappeared, leaving rocky cobble shorelines. Wide sandy beaches no longer protect some coastal bluffs from the erosion forces of the surf. Coastal structures are also in greater risk of damage from storms and high seas.

While coastal communities provide many beach related services, many coastal communities do not have the fiscal resources to deal with beach erosion problems and are searching for ways to fund needed beach erosion control and shoreline stabilization projects. Because beach sand migrates through the littoral shoreline system without regard for municipal boundaries, beach nourishment is often viewed as an undertaking that has greater than local benefit.

Areas such as Santa Monica have been successfully nourished for years and demonstrate that beach nourishment can function effectively on California beaches. These projects also demonstrate that there are opportunities to mitigate impacts to sand supply (as required in Coastal Act Section 30235).

This program is compatible with the long-term goals of the Coastal Act to support and enhance coastal access to California's beaches.

FISCAL IMPACT

This bill has no fiscal impacts on the Coastal Commission.

POSITION

The Commission voted to support this bill on March 10, 1999.

For more information contact Jeff Stump, Legislative Coordinator, at (415) 904-5266.